## Weiss, Rachel

From:

Al [acarriere@montanasky.com]

Sent:

Wednesday, March 21, 2012 6:52 PM

To: Subject: Redistricting

Lake County

I live in Polson Mt, Lake County.

Depending on the map, Lake county is chopped into portions of 5-7 districts. It looks like you are cutting up lake county to make other districts whole. How about making Lake county whole? Reduce the number of districts that include portions of Lake County. Three would be a nice number.

Al Carriere

## Weiss, Rachel

From:

Mary Hensleigh [mjhensleigh@gmail.com] Monday, March 26, 2012 12:21 PM

Sent: Monday,

Redistricting

To: Subject: Redistricting Comment

I am in favor of the redistricting proposal that would include Whitehall with the Butte-Silver Bow District. I will be unable to attend the meeting on the 27th but will attend the meeting in Helena on the 28th. Change is not a four letter word and I applaud your efforts.

Mary Janacaro Hensleigh Mayor Of Whitehall

I urge you to resist the clear intention of the Democrats to continue the gerrymandering of Montana's legislative boundaries. To go forward with the existing or communities proposal simply ignores the criteria adopted and fails the very system of how representation was intended to operate under our state Constitution. The community proposal in particular is an example of what should never be done, with respect to redistricting, since it's an obvious attempt to use political data and election results.

The map proposals, (urban-rural, subdivision) created by the non-partisan legislative staff complies with the criteria that is consistent with; communities of interest, equalizes the number of people in districts, meets the compactness requirement and avoids the manipulation attempt by partisan politics. These proposals also discontinue the urban control of suburban and rural areas, and the inconsistent application of deviation.

Thank for your efforts and listening to we the people of Montana. To have a map that favors the Democratic party and their political purpose and agenda is not in the best interests of all Montanans.

Sincerely,

Keith Kubista 528 Redtail Hawk Lane Stevensville, MT 59870

kredtailhawk@gmail.com

Dear Montana Reapportionment Commission,

Chouteau County is currently split into three different house districts despite being far under the number of people for one House district. We know that a small part in the northeast may have to go to another House district, but we urge the commission to keep the rest of the county whole if at all possible. Our county is our community.

I have heard that the Montana Democratic Party is up to the same old tricks that it did last time when it gerrymandered the best map it could make for their party. I don't see how this is even possible given the fact that using statistics and election data is not part of the Commission's criteria. If it's not already, this practice should be illegal! Please reject maps that use these methods and make the criteria you developed the way you judge plans.

I hope the Commission will truly take into account the public's input into the process.

Sincerely,		
Name:	Joan R. albers	
Postal address:	Box 5/5	
	tort Benton MJ 69443	
email:		 

March 12, 2012

380 Hawk Point Lane

Hamilton, MT 59840

Members of the Restricting Commission:

It has come to our attention that there are currently proposals for new legislative boundaries that have used the election results to draw lines. I ask you, is this the way Montanans work?

Current maps split not only counties.....but cities. These maps are set up to delineate areas where there is a majority of Democratic voters, which gives the Republicans a disadvantage. This has an overtone of dishonesty. I urge you not to adopt maps that would in any way look like the existing ones. There are maps being submitted by local communities, which would have a more forthright approach to drawing the boundaries, and we ask you to review them and give them honest consideration.

Thank you for your time and dedication to making Montana a proud, honest and forthright state; one where we can all say we run a government of which we can be proud.

Sincerely

L.D. & Ruth Renfrew

March 11, 2012

Districting & Apportionment Commission Legislative Services Division PO Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620

I totally support the Communities Plan for our state re-districting process. This plan not only meets the mandatory criteria, but it reflects the diversity of our state's population and interests and seeks to create fair and competitive districts. This is so important! So much goes into drawing legislative boundaries, so it must be done right for all citizens to ensure full participation. Communities of interests should be kept intact. This plan considers such crucial elements as: urban, suburban, rural and neighborhood interests; trade areas; geography; communications and transportation networks; media marketing; social, cultural and economic interests.

Protection of our constitutional right of one person, one vote is paramount, thus population equality is of utmost importance. Minority voting rights for our American Indian citizens and others must be respected. Things like functional compactness and contiguousness are also necessary components of the successful plan, again to ensure full participation.

There must be fairness and balance in our political and geographic boundaries. Elements like counties, cities, towns and school districts should be kept intact. We Montanans deserve a legislature that reflects our diversity not a re-districting plan that allows for a single party to dominate the legislative process. You owe it to all Montanans to come up with the best plan for all; the Communities Plan is by far the best.

Thanks for considering our input.

Gail Richardson

Sincerely,

Gail Richardson

5263 Cimmeron Drive

Bozeman, MT 59715

March 14<sup>th</sup> 2012 1726 De Foe Street Missoula, Montana 59802-1915

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission P. O. Box 201706 Helena, Montana 59620-1706

Last evening I attended the commission meeting being held in Missoula, Montana. I sit through the two and one half hour session. I would like to say it was well conducted. Here are my comments on what I heard and seen at the meeting.

Most of the people speaking had one main concern in giving the dissertations They all wanted to have their one ballot to count as a full representative of their feeling and wishes as to who would be their elective official. This is called governing from the ballot box.

Now it is your responsibility to put this action into operation in the most fair way that it can be set up for the voting public.

I would like to see the new districts set up using the city streets and county roads as the main lines used to arrange these districts. When you vary from this process it begins to make a person wonder why they are not sufficient.

Please use this in your consideration of redistricting our communities.

Sincerely, Robert L. auras

Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission,

I appreciate how tough the task at hand must be in redrawing district lines in the Legislature, but I don't know why you must have proposals that gerrymander based on how people vote in certain areas. Doesn't that go against the criteria you adopted? Montana shouldn't just follow the bad examples of other states that allow one political party to draw seats that help them in elections. You should reject those kinds of maps.

There are at least a couple of maps on the table that seem to follow your criteria. I think the urban-rural 100 map is a common sense recognition of the differences between cities and rural areas of the state. I think the subdivision 100 map is also a good approach since it seems to keep many counties and towns together when possible.

Allowing the Democratic party to have a map that draws lines to help them is ridiculous. It shouldn't even be under consideration.

Thank you for listening to my comments,

Name:

Address: 109 Stewart Street

ANGCarda MT. 5974

Email Address:

GR+FLMT74@ yahoo. Com

I understand there are proposals before the commission for new legislative boundaries that used election results as a basis for drawing lines. This may be something that is common in Washington, D.C., New York or California, but it's not the Montana way.

I believe it is impossible to follow the criteria you adopted while also taking into account political data. Relying on statistics about how areas vote lead to many of the problems of the current map: urban domination of suburban and rural areas, unnecessary splitting of counties and cities, and inconsistent application of deviation. Please do not adopt any map that uses such statistics or has any resemblance to the current map.

It appears the commission has at least three good proposals put together by non-partisan staff members (urban-rural, deviation, subdivision). For Dawson county, it makes sense to keep it all together and add neighboring Wibaux County. Combined, the two counties would make a House district within the acceptable deviation range.

Yours Truly, (NAME):	Len Buchen.
(ADDRESS):	Musicula MT 59801
(EMAIL):	Blackten at Quest after com

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Name:

Richard Champion Edwards In

Address:

RO. Bon 17612

Missoula, Mr 59808

Email Address:

champ edmunds Dychoo. con

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Name: Elsie a. Yalan

Elsie H. Nelson

Address:

3926 Bellecrest Dr.

Missoula, MT 59801

Email Address:

Geolnelson@ aol. com

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(NAME):	Camera de la companya della companya
(ADDRESS):	EENEST NEZSOD 3976 BELLECREST
(ADDITEOU).	MISSOVIA, MT. 5980/
(EMAIL):	geolnelson Qaolicon

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Thank you for listening to my comments,

Name:

CHARLES W. OLINGER DR

Address:

Missoula MT 59802

Email Address:

colinger@falconmt.com

To the Districting and Apportionment Commission,

I am ardently opposed to the commission using maps that rely on political data and election results in legislative redistricting. This is a shameful practice and it goes against everything in our constitution about transparency and open government. It's almost as if the Montana Democratic party believes it has to rig election results in order to have a shot at controlling the legislature.

In the last redistricting cycle, deviation was used in a way to benefit Democrat and urban areas while it hurt Republican and rural areas. Also, the commission totally ignored much of the rest of the criteria in favor of a map that relied on political data to draw legislative lines. This approach should be rejected.

Richland County is just around the perfect size for a House Seat within the 3% deviation. Counties are communities of interest, so we urge you to make things simple by using the county line as the legislative line.

If the commission sticks with the criteria it adopted, I believe you will come up with something that looks a lot more like Montana.

Name: They	
Address: 100 Hillian	
E-mail: 1+/ey@bisky. net	<del></del>

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Address:	Missal nt 59803	
Email Address:		

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	RAY E, HAWK
(ADDRESS):	4878 HOBLITT LN S FLORENCE MT. 59833
(EMAIL):	RHAWK@BresnAN. Nel

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	Niles E Brush
(ADDRESS):	286 Rodgean Pr Lolo, m+ 59847
(EMAIL):	niles. brush @ umontana. edu

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The last map in Montana was developed through a heavy reliance on political data and election results. There is no other way to explain how many communities were divided, other than it served a political purpose for the Montana Democratic Party. The new map should have no resemblance to the current map, because it inconsistently ignores existing political subdivisions, communities of interest, lacks the compactness requirement and all of the other official redistricting criteria.

The commission should use the three maps developed by non-partisan legislative staff as starting points for the new map: the urban-rural, deviation and subdivision maps. The fourth map is just a slightly modified version of the map the Democrats put forward in 2000 using political data and election results. Many local communities are putting forward suggestions for their areas – please pay special attention to those.

Sincerely, NAME: Mumb		
ADDRESS: 121 Sevenus	Hamilton	59840
EMAIL: FISCHIJAGERE		

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Sincerely,	Avnine Monskan
ADDRESS:_	BW/202 Polson MT 59860 3+334 pinewood-
EMAIL:	Carminemoulovay @ gmail.com

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Sincerely,	
NAME: Jan BAILER	
ADDRESS: 2017 W SUSSEX AVE	
MISSOULA, MT 59801	
EMAIL: JOWATHAN EDWARD BAICER	ANTONIO (1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1

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Farmer Fernand III and Indianal Grant
Sincerely,
NAME: Yarry Ballance
ADDRESS: 388 Hawk foint In Hamilton, MT 59840
,
EMAIL: nballance @ aol. com

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NAME au Talon	
ADDRESS: 42470 Solomon Roaci	
KOND MT 59864	
EMAIL:	

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NAME: Sury Market	
ADDRESS: 429 CURLEW ORCHARD RD.	
EMAIL: GARYMACLAREN@YAHOO, COM	

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Sincerely, NAME: MARK 5. SEARCH	<u>.</u>		
ADDRESS: 1500 Cote LN	Missoula,	MT	59808
EMAIL: markbrady a bresnan, n	ve		

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Sincerely,	·
NAME: Kongro J. Ehli	
ADDRESS: BOX 765  Homicon, MT 5984	
+HAMICAN, 141 31870	
EMAIL: MTMUTTE MONTANA. CUM	

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NAME: NAME: NAME: NAME: NAME:	
ADDRESS: 355 C6 Terrae LKRA	·
Runar MT 59864	
EMAIL: prdemaba Ychoo. Com	

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Sincerely,	Paul Vankuza		
ADDRESS:_	10095 Rustic Rd Missoula, MT 5980	)	
EMAIL:	paulvankuza Qyahoo	).com	

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parada. Penade ingale (edicaloung circle)	
Sincerely,	
NAME: January Stokes	
ADDRESS: 332 N. Gold Creok Sogs	
Homelton M1 37846	
EMAIL: Steken @ Manden Com	

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Thank you for your work and for listening to regular Montanans. Please stay away from manipulating lines for political purposes and stick to the state constitution.

Yours Truly, (NAME):	Shew Klempel	
(ADDRESS):	1351 RD 523 Bloomfred, MT 57315	
(EMAIL):		

Helena. Mt. 59620-1706

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(NAME):	al Mary	
(ADDRESS):	1351 Rod 523	
	Bloomford, MT. 57315	
(EMAIL):	ank a mid rivers, com	

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Yours Truly,

(NAME):

(ADDRESS):

(EMAIL):

Bloomfield, MT 59315

merle man @ smail.com

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(ADDRESS):	10, Road 523. 3 bomfald, MT 59315
(EMAIL):	Consienulet @ anail.com

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	ROBINE ROBINS	
(ADDRESS):	206 Rd 261. GLENDIUE MT 59330	
(EMAIL):		

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	Hene m Roleins	
(ADDRESS):	2010 Rd. 26/ Glinding mt 59330	
(EMAIL):		i

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	Marteen Taylor	
(ADDRESS):	133 Seven mile Dr Glendive, MT 59330	
(EMAIL):		

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Yours Truly,	)···	
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Yours Truly, (NAME):	Larry Heimbuch		
(ADDRESS):	1263 RD 211		
	59330		
(EMAIL):	Jah Emidrivers Com	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	Arlene Heimbruch	
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(ADDRESS):	1413 N. MeAde Ave, Glendine, MT 39330	
(EMAIL):		

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Yours Truly,
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(ADDRESS):

Glendin MT 57330

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Mail to:

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission PO Box 201706
Helena, Mt. 59620-1706

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	Darlene Guhin	
(ADDRESS):	1272 River Rd Bozeman Uit	
(EMAIL):		•

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(NAME):	V mee Shihan	
(ADDRESS):	1292 Rin Popl	
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Yours Truly, (NAME):	Donald Felding	
(ADDRESS):	1519 N. Kending one	
	<u>57330</u>	•
(EMAIL):	DC DCALAMS & M. Shivers, Com	

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Yours Truly,		
(NAME):	Carole Adams	
(ADDRESS):	1519 N. Krndrick NUE	
	Glandive	
	mont. 59330	
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(FMAIL):	DC Adams @ mid & Box S . Com	

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Yours Truly.

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Johanna J. Cendersen

(ADDRESS):

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Glendine, 127, 59330

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anders r 2@ midrivers. com.

Mail to: Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission PO Box 201706 Helena, Mt. 59620-1706

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	BOB PHALEN	
(ADDRESS):	444 RD 222 LINDSAG MT 59339	
(EMAIL):		**************************************

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	Connie Phalen	<del></del>
(ADDRESS):	444 Aoad 222 Lindsay, Mt	
(EMAIL):		

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(ADDRESS):	806 P Monde Glandine, MT	
(EMAIL):		

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Yours Truly,	
(NAME):	Johynn Clingingsmith
(ADDRESS):	Joea S Sargent Ave Glendine, MT
(EMAIL):	

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	Todd Tibbert	
(ADDRESS):	Box 456 Terry MT 99349	
(EMAIL):		

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	Linda Baker
(ADDRESS):	Glendive, M+ 59330
(EMAIL):	Sudantake

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	Linda trescott
(ADDRESS):	514 So. Taylor Ave, Colondive, mil 59330
(EMAIL):	

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(ADDRESS):	95 Park V'ew In PO Box 464 Glendive MT 59330
(EMAIL):	

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(ADDRESS):	122 W. Bad Roule R. Terry, Mont.	<del></del>
	59349	
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(ADDRESS):	1711 M. Merril ap. K. Mendine met.	
(EMAIL):		

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	Jean Rosendale	
(ADDRESS):	1954 Highway 16 Glendive MT. 59330	
(EMAII ):	Linden a Midrivers, com	٠

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	Physics Newton	
(ADDRESS):	_372 FAB 254 Clendine, Mont	
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(EMAIL):		

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	4492	
(ADDRESS):	610 Rd 118 Vibank MT 59353	
(EMAIL):		,

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	Donna M. Heenride
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(4	06-687-3437
(EMAIL):	

I understand there are proposals before the commission for new legislative boundaries that used election results as a basis for drawing lines. This may be something that is common in Washington, D.C., New York or California, but it's not the Montana way.

I believe it is impossible to follow the criteria you adopted while also taking into account political data. Relying on statistics about how areas vote lead to many of the problems of the current map: urban domination of suburban and rural areas, unnecessary splitting of counties and cities, and inconsistent application of deviation. Please do not adopt any map that uses such statistics or has any resemblance to the current map.

It appears the commission has at least three good proposals put together by non-partisan staff members (urban-rural, deviation, subdivision). For Dawson county, it makes sense to keep it all together and add neighboring Wibaux County. Combined, the two counties would make a House district within the acceptable deviation range.

Yours Truly, (NAME):	Scott 1 Smily Eafu 2	
(ADDRESS):	Slowling Att 5988	
(EMAIL):		
•		

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	3cott Esta	
(ADDRESS):	GLENDIUE Mr. 59330	
(EMAIL):		•

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	Pruce Brindge
(ADDRESS):	469 Rd 344 Glendine MT 59330
(EMAIL):	Gruce Q ausvania, con

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Yours Truly, (NAME):	Denevieux Licà	
(ADDRESS):	122 Ross 555 Dendeise Mortana	
	59330	
(EMAIL):		

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Thank you for your work and for listening to regular Montanans. Please stay away from manipulating lines for political purposes and stick to the state constitution.

Yours Truly,

(NAME):

(ADDRESS):

(EMAIL):

no new midrivers - com

From:

Don Holmquist [mtcardinal@bresnan.net]

Sent:

Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:39 AM

To:

Redistricting

Subject:

The redistricting opportunity

Abolish all partisan involvement. Establish districts that reflect natural boundaries and communities. The way it has been is akin to allowing a high school team to bring in a player from far away to play on "their team". You can do this relatively simply. If an area is resided in by a minority, it will usually elect a minority representative. If an area is diverse, ditto. Keep the districts intact for 10 years and then reexamine and adjust WITHOUT partisan regard. Our current and past designs have been abject failures. Get this right and it will go a long way to end this ridiculous redrawing charade. Eliminate partisan influence or we get more of the same again and again. It can be done. Thanks, Don Holmquist, Helena

From:

gailbzimmer@aol.com

Sent:

Tuesday, March 13, 2012 5:12 PM

To: Subject:

Redistricting Redistricting

To the Members of the Redistricting Commission:

I want to publicly state that I am extremely tired and sickened by politics that favor one side over the other, in particular when it comes to redistricting. I am for fair and balanced elections that represent the voters of Montana; we vote to elect officials that represent us not their self-interests. I understand that Montana's current redistricting commission has adopted criteria that are part of our state constitution, along with additional criteria that will be helpful in developing legislative boundaries that will reflect Montana values. I believe those criteria should be used in determining compact and contiguous districts that include population equality, protection of minority voting rights, respecting existing political subdivision lines, communities of interest and traditional neighborhoods.

I strongly encourage the commission to stick to these criteria and establish districts on a fair, balanced and neutral approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely

Gail Briese-Zimmer

Helena MT

From:

John\_Joan Wagner [jjwagner1@msn.com] Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:42 AM

Sent:

To: Subject: Redistricting Gerrymandering

Please be advised that I am opposed to gerrymandering boundaries just for the sake of political gains by the DemoRats.

John Wagner Missoula

From:

Kyle Jackson [kajjackson@hotmail.com] Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:35 PM

Sent:

To:

Redistricting

Subject:

redistricting

Hello, I live in Bozeman and I would like to put in my two cents worth.

Please redistrict the state fairly, according to population density. It is essential that everyone's vote be equal.

Kyle Jackson Bozeman

From:

Denise Moore [denisemoore@montana.com]

Sent:

Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:00 AM

To:

Redistricting

Subject:

Input re Draft Maps / Missoula County

Thank you, all, for the extraordinary effort and thought that you and your staff members have been putting into this important project.

I attended last night's Public Input meeting held at the University of Montana, and in respect for your time and because of the ever-growing line of individuals wishing to speak, I instead opted to submit my comments by eMail.

As a resident of the City of Missoula, of course my primary concern is within my own community. As I studied the mandatory districting criteria, and reviewed the five currently available draft maps, it became clear that the map that best fits the key criteria of compact and contiguous districts is the Urban Rural Plan. This plan also respects the discretionary criteria of following geographic boundaries while keeping communities of interest intact. When considering that legislative representatives are elected to, well, represent, I believe it is vitally important that the establishment of these districts take into account the value of the commonality of interests of the constituents within.

The plan which <u>least</u> adheres to the above mentioned criteria is the Communities plan. This plan blatantly ignores the discretionary criteria of keeping communities of interest intact by purposely forcing urban centers into oddly shaped and meandering districts that also would serve suburban and rural constituents (each, naturally, with considerably different needs and concerns). In addition, it fails to satisfy the mandatory criteria of compact and contiguous by creating what appears to be a junction of 7 districts or so in the heart of the city of Missoula, creating bizarre geographic and community tracts. This plan contradicts the intention of the mandatory criteria by packing population-stable, largely property-owning outlying rural areas with urban, more transient/mobile voters.

Thank you for taking the time to consider all of the varying opinions surrounding legislative districting and apportionment. I'm looking forward to learning more of your progress in the coming months.

Respectfully,

**Denise Mongrain Moore** 

108 Ben Hogan Drive Missoula Montana 59803 406 370 1533 | denisemoore@montana.com

From:
-------

Randy Turner [sonwestdesigners@gmail.com]

Sent:

Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:28 PM

To: Subject: Redistricting
Redistricting Considerations

Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission,

I realize it must be a tough task to equitably redraw district lines for the Montana Legislature. I also know why partisan influences and special interest groups want to have proposals that gerrymander based on how people vote in certain areas. Doesn't that go against the criteria you adopted? Montana should not follow the examples of other states that allow one political party to draw diistricts that help them in elections. You should reject those kinds of maps.

There are at least a couple of maps up for consideration that seem to follow your criteria. I think the subdivision 100 map is a good approach since it seems to keep many counties and towns together when possible.

I think the urban-rural 100 map is also

a common sense recognition of the differences between cities and rural areas in Montana.

Allowing any party to have a map that draws lines to help them is wrong. Please do not consider the "community" proposal as unbiased.

Thank you for listening to my comments,

Name:

Randy Turner

Address:

509 Grandview Drive

Stevensville, MT

Email Address: sonwestdesigners@gmail.com

Serving together,

Randy

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,....." Romans 1:16

Randy Turner, BA, MS SonWest Designers Stevens ville, MT 59870 Ph & Fax (406) 777-2501 Mobile (406) 360-1771

Email: sonwestdesigners@gmail.com

Web Page http://sonwestdesigners.googlepages.com

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From:

RickLaible@aol.com

Sent:

Wednesday, March 14, 2012 2:49 PM

To: Subject: Redistricting re-districting

# **Dear Commissioners:**

It is imperative that when redrawing the district lines that the Commission hold to the criteria as outlined within our State Constitution. Districts should be compact, include contiguous districts, protect minority voting rights, respect existing political subdivision lines, maintain communities of interest and traditional neighborhoods.

The job of the commission is draw the district lines per our constitution, and to protect our Montana heritage of fairness.

Please do not re-district the lines in such a way that would provide one political party an advantage over another. Justice is blind, and redistricting should be structured the same way, the Montana way.

Sincerely,

Sen. Rick Laible (retired) SD-44, Darby, Mt.

From:

Josh Hennes [joshhennes.hd89@yahoo.com]

Sent:

Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:21 PM

To: Subject: Redistricting suggestion

My name is Josh Hennes, I spoke briefly at the commission hearing/meeting on Tuesday, March 13th in Missoula. I am a Republican candidate for House District 89 and redistricting is important to me. I personally benefit from the current map. I do however see the partisan effort and effect that is in place. The current map was written by one political party (Democrat), and the "communities" map resembles it immensely. I would not be surprised to hear that the Democrats are as opposed to a map they feel benefits the Republicans as much as the "communities" benefits the Democrats. I am writing to share a solution that is as bold as it would be effective. I believe that the citizens should benefit most from redistricting, more than the Republicans and more than the Democrats. My solution would be to present the four new maps to both parties, the Montana Republican Central Committee and the Montana Democratic Central Committee, to choose one map to remove from consideration. Yes, I said remove! Most people are more honest on how an idea can benefit someone else over themselves, so let them each choose the one that benefits the "other" party most. This would ensure that the two most partisan and politically driven maps are removed from consideration, resulting in the two most equitable being considered by your commission. I feel that the citizens would appreciate the non-partisan results.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Josh Hennes joshhennes.hd89@yahoo.com 406-369-3986

From:

gary sanders [sandersoh6@yahoo.com] Saturday, March 17, 2012 10:50 PM

Sent:

To:

Redistricting

Cc:

sandersoh6@yahoo.com

Subject:

Redistricting

I think it is about time we streamline the districts. Simplicity and efficiency is the key to success. The districts need to be formed by neighborhoods and main arteries, not by political ambition. KISS (keep, it, simple, stupid)

Regards Gary "Tink" Sanders candidate for HD 97

From:

Vicky O'Hara [vickyohara63@hotmail.com]

Sent:

Sunday, March 18, 2012 2:29 PM

To:

Redistricting

Subject:

need fair redistricting

#### To whom this may concern:

I like solutions and sense the redistricting seems to be broke and needs to be fixed, this is the solution. Remember the show "Do you know more than a fifth grader?

I believe our students in our schools should decide the redistricting boundaries. This would be great for math, mapping, geography and spelling.

Give these students no "R" and no "D"s to work, just good old population numbers and maps. I bet they could better put together districts that make good common sense than the "adults". Thank you, Vicky O'Hara

From:

Lark Chadwick [larkwick@blackfoot.net]

Sent:

Sunday, March 18, 2012 4:34 PM

To:

Redistricting

Cc:

ledger@blackfoot.net

Subject:

Open letter to the Redistricting Commission

## To Redistricting Commission:

All this back and forth over re-districting is a political distraction contrived by members of the phony "two-party" system, dividing up the state to lessen one group or another's political strength. This is nothing less than disenfranchisement by design, completely defeating the strengths and values of members of our state who are not of those two parties!

And this is being done by a so-called "non-partisan" commission made up of only TWO of the several political parties that exist in Montana! Pretending to be "fairness" in action, it is nothing but fraud.

For example, many past presidential election fields were made of 3, 4, 5 political parties, each reflecting the wishes of its particular constituency. This wealth of difference did nothing to hurt the electoral process. The Republic survived!

But, in the current methodology, only two parties are represented.

When gerrymandering occurs, guaranteeing one party a majority edge in subsequent elections, we then really only have one party. This will not help our Republic survive, and will do more to discourage voters than encourage "participation". Why would anyone try, if they know ahead of time that their vote "won't count"?

The political boundaries of the state districts are already established by the Constitution of Montana, each managed by county commissioners placed there by those who have stake in the outcome of those elections.

County boundaries should be the State Legislative Districts, since those within a county generally have interests in common and a common local government to which they may turn for redress of grievances.

If this is something urbanites don't like, that's too bad; they chose to live where they are. But to deny rural folks their chosen representation by diluting their votes around densely populated urban areas is to deny them the right to lawful, fair representation.

This is no different than the push for a National Popular Vote, which would eliminate the electoral collage that was put in place to ensure low populated states are capable of being fairly represented in Congress!

Gerrymandering around certain populations and voting proclivities - guaranteeing majorities in perpetuity for only two political parties, and therefore fraudulently based - is in direct conflict with our Constitutional guarantee of a Republican form of government, in which the people may fairly obtain a semblance of real representation. "All government of rights originates with the people" – there is no mention of political parties (Art. II Sections 1, The Constitution of the State of Montana).

From:

palomasolo@blackfoot.net

Sent:

Sunday, March 18, 2012 5:52 PM

To: Subject: Redistricting districting

#### Howdy!

If your goal is to be truly non-partisan in your efforts, i.e. not giving favors to any particular political party, and since there are several political parties in Montana, the only way possible to district with a blind eye, is to establish house districts to conform to county lines. No matter how many, or few, people live in any particular county, they will then never be at a disadvantage to any other county or group of counties; one county, one vote.

Moreover, since the ballot access is weighted against the so-called "third party" elements, they at least will still have some voice in the house, whether or not they have an elected candidate from their particular party.

Of course, this could also be remedied by providing ballot access to all parties and let the people decide for themselves whom they will elect, party or not.

If you find this proposal unpalatable, you just might be tyrants.

Happy Trails, Dick Wells, Thompson Falls

3-16-2012

#### Members of the Commission:

I live in House District 79. This district <u>as configured is not compact as is required under Montana's Constitution.</u>

My district would be considerably improved if either the Urban Rural OR the Subdivision lines were adopted. In addition, either would more accurately incorporate neighborhoods similar to the one in which I live. That is an additional criterion the Commission should consider.

What we have now is utterly ridiculous. Be reasonable and intelligent!

Sincerely,

Cyndi Forbes

2526 Heritage Drive Helena, MT 59601

406-443-3219



# The Big Sky Country

# MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### REPRESENTATIVE RON EHLI HOUSE DISTRICT 88

HELENA ADDRESS: CAPITOL BUILDING PO BOX 200400 HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0400 PHONE: (406) 444-4800 HOME ADDRESS: BOX 765 HAMILTON, MT 59840 PHONE: (406) 363-3130 COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
JOINT APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE LONG-RANGE
PLANNING

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012

#### Dear Chairman Regnier:

Please accept my gratitude for the challenges that you and the other Commissioners have taken on to redraw legislative District lines. I can only imagine the daunting task that you have undertaken, but appreciate your efforts to meet the guidelines to equalize the number of people in each District.

I am writing to encourage you to do what is right for the people of Montana and do not bend to the pressures from <u>any</u> political group and the use of political data such as voting statistics when forming the new Districts. I believe using the mandatory criteria such as population equality with a +/- 3% deviation, compact and contiguous Districts, and protecting minority voting rights as a basis should be pretty straightforward when making your decisions.

Thank you again for the honest work that you are doing for the "Great State of Montana!"

Sincerely,

Ron Ehli, Representative HD 88 Hamilton, Corvallis, Grantsdale

From:

Trish Auras [trishauras2@aol.com] Monday, March 19, 2012 1:27 PM Redistricting Redistricting

Sent: To:

Subject:

Please do the redistricting in a fair and equitable way.

Trish Auras 1726 DeFoe St Missoula, MT 29802

From: Sent:

rachel kucharski [myrach2000@yahoo.com] Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:32 AM

To:

Redistricting

Jefferson County needs to be left alone, you are now trying to mess things up with our voting for political purposes and that is not constitutional in any means! This is not a game! WE are willing to fight this all the way through! Our county is fine the way that it is and unless you can show us a "Constitutional Provision" to eliminate this county, then you better leave it alone!

Regards~

the Town of Cardwell and the Town of Whitehall

From:

Sandy Carey [carey.sandy@gmail.com]

Sent:

Wednesday, March 21, 2012 11:08 AM

To:

Redistricting

Subject:

Jefferson County redistricting draft plan

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission,

I am NOT in favor of the draft plan, Jefferson County - Urban Rural Plan, with its proposed plan to redistrict Jefferson County.

The plan which divides Jefferson County into 3 parts is horribly unfair to the people of this county. Our people would be the minority in 2 districts dominated by Butte voters, and 1 district dominated by Helena voters. Jefferson County would literally become a non-entity on the Legislative map.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely, Chris Carey

From:

Cheryl Wolfe [kuhlwolf@centurytel.net]

Sent:

Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:53 PM

To:

Redistricting

Cc:

MTStateGreens@yahoogroups.com

Subject:

Redistricting Comment

It is so unfair to citizens who are trying to work with their fellow neighbors, to have the town and the county split and fractured. Don't split it by the highway, causing some neighbors to be "on the other side of the tracks." Please fix the convoluted boundaries that cannot be described verbally among the people who actually live in the neighborhood—the current map is unacceptable.

The boundaries need to be clear and clean.

Don't split the town or neighborhood.

Please!

Cheryl Wolfe

Cheryl M.Wolfe, CPA 608 16th Ave E Polson, MT 59860 406-750-6668

From: Sent: Robert Dwyer [rfdwyer@gmail.com] Fridav, March 23, 2012 1:32 PM

To:

Redistricting

Subject:

Butte-Silver Bow redistricting

#### To Whom It May Concern:

Butte-Silver Bow has dramatically different interests from Jefferson County or Granite County. We live with the Berkley Pit in the middle of our town. We have a combined city/county government. We sponsor and enjoy the Montana Folk Festival, Evel Kneivel Days, and St.

Patrick's Day. Neither of the counties adjacent to Butte-Silver Bow share in our lifestyle, interests or concerns.

I want Butte's legislators to reflect Butte's concerns, interests and priorities. I do not want them distracted attempting to weigh the concerns of my community against the concerns of other nearby counties with completely different priorities.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly oppose the so-called "communities" plan presented by commissioners Lamson and Smith. As proposed for Butte-Silver Bow, their plan is not about my community, but about dividing my community and mixing us in with areas with which we have little to nothing in common.

I prefer the subdivision plan, or the urban-rural plan, or even the deviation plan. Any of those plans better maintains the integrity of Butte-Silver Bow and keeps my community's legislative delegation together.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Dwyer, III 106 Country Club Lane Butte, MT 59701

From:

flyingd@q.com

Sent:

Friday, March 23, 2012 11:10 AM

To: Subject: Redistricting Letter submission

#### Letter to redistricting commission:

I would like to thank you and the legislative services division for coming to Missoula on March 13 of this year. You have a very difficult job and as I remarked during the public comment, until everyone is not happy, your job will not be complete.

That being said, I would like to reaffirm some of my remarks and expand on others I did not have time to make. I certainly don't expect you to remember each and every submission and would like to speak to some ideas that will not be part of your mandate and some that will be.

First, as I attempted to do, probably not well, was to explain what I have observed in Missoula County these past numbers of years. In the 1950s and the 1960s we had a fairly stable representation of both parties. By that I mean, house and senate seats may have moved between parties depending on the issues of the day and the candidates, but the split between parties was pretty constant. That continued till the redistricting resulting from the 1990 census. Since that time, nine of the ten districts have been occupied by democrats. These races almost always have been won by a 60% to 40% margin. There were some outlier elections but never won by republicans. The democrat candidates were never in danger of losing an election in those nine districts. There is one and only one reason that this occurred, gerrymandering. Each of those nine districts had, at their core, a single distinguishing characteristic. They all radiated from the city core, which, even in the years prior to the nineties, had heavily democratic voting patterns. As I stated, at your meeting, if those patterns since the last redistricting occurred were an indication of the political leanings, then I have to admit I believe Missoula should have more Republican representation. Now I know this is not in your mandate but it should be.

For this reason, I am opposed to the "Communities" map, as it approximates the existing map, almost to a "T". The shapes have changed, the numbers have been moved around, but the maps are nearly identical. I can only assume that the plan is intended to keep the status quo in Missoula. Again, nine districts radiate from the deep center of Missoula, where again, the voting patterns are distinctly democrat at a nearly sixty to forty margin.

For these reasons, I favor the "Urban-Rural" map. It fits well with your constitutionally mandated theme of "contiguous and compact". The "Communities" map does not.

We heard much testimony from the democrat elected officials about competitive races and the theory of how competition made for good races. If you were to look back at these "competitive" races you would find in the definition of competitive races in Missoula, means the democrats win nine seats every time.

In closing, if the "urban-rural" map or something close to it is not your choice, almost any other map would be better for Missoula than the communities map is. Missoula would continue to be used as an

From: Sent:

Lee Bruner [lee@prrlaw.com] Friday, March 23, 2012 1:38 PM

To:

Redistricting

Subject:

FW: Butte-Silver Bow redistricting

#### To Whom It May Concern:

Butte-Silver Bow has dramatically different interests from Jefferson County or Granite County. We live with the Berkley Pit in the middle of our town. We have a combined city/county government. We sponsor and enjoy the Montana Folk Festival, Evel Kneivel Days, and St.

Patrick's Day. Neither of the counties adjacent to Butte-Silver Bow share in our lifestyle, interests or concerns.

I want Butte's legislators to reflect Butte's concerns, interests and priorities. I do not want them distracted attempting to weigh the concerns of my community against the concerns of other nearby counties with completely different priorities.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly oppose the so-called "communities" plan presented by commissioners Lamson and Smith. As proposed for Butte-Silver Bow, their plan is not about my community, but about dividing my community and mixing us in with areas with which we have little to nothing in common.

I prefer the subdivision plan, or the urban-rural plan, or even the deviation plan. Any of those plans better maintains the integrity of Butte-Silver Bow and keeps my community's legislative delegation together.

Sincerely,

Lee Bruner 1200 W. Platinum St. Butte, MT 59701

From: Sent:

Ron Erickson [nancron@aol.com] Friday, March 16, 2012 2:28 PM

To: Subject: Redistricting Redistricting

#### To Commission members:

From Ron Erickson, SD 47

I attended the hearing in Missoula on March 13 and made a few remarks near the end of the meeting. Here are two other topics for your consideration.

#### Pinesdale

There was a great deal of testimony concerning the fact that keeping the Hamilton area intact forces people to travel through one legislative district to reach another part of the Darby district. This is not unusual.

My former House District 64 (boundaries drawn up in 1992) included upper Miller Creek and Bear Run Creek. To get to that area any candidate had to drive through two other house districts to visit with potential constituents. This was of no concern to the candidate and in fact of no concern to the constituents, who, in general, know little of where exact boundaries are located. Those areas had issues that closely mirrored those I discovered in other parts of the District, Pattee Canyon and Deer Creek, which are also outside of the city.

My sense is that Hamilton, a growing city in the county, deserves its own district and that Pinesdale fits well with the other small towns in the lower half of the valley.

#### Pattee Canyon

I am concerned about the boundaries in three of the five plans for my neighborhood, Pattee Canyon. Both the Subdivision Plan and Urban Rural Plan split the neighborhood in half. We are a relatively small neighborhood in population, tied together with a neighborhood association and a Citizen's Zoning District (ZD 4, one of the first such districts in the state). There is no good reason to split us up.

Of equal concern is the Deviation Plan which leaves all of Pattee Canyon "on the outside looking in" - that is we are relegated to a non- urban district. But that really is not what we are about - every person in our canyon is closely tied to the city. We work there, shop there, and enjoy all of the entertainment/cultural amenities that Missoula offers. Those facts have been acknowledged in the boundaries for legislative districts for at least the last thirty years and I ask that you reject the new boundaries in the these three plans.

From:

Mary McLaughlin [mmannieoakley@gmail.com]

Sent:

Friday, March 23, 2012 6:37 PM

To: Subject:

Redistricting Butte-Silver Bow

## To Whom It May Concern:

Butte-Silver Bow has dramatically different interests from Jefferson County or Granite County. We live with the Berkley Pit in the middle of our town. We have a combined city/county government. We sponsor and enjoy the Montana Folk Festival, Evel Kneivel Days, and St. Patrick's Day. Neither of the counties adjacent to Butte-Silver Bow share in our lifestyle, interests or concerns.

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For the reasons stated above, I strongly oppose the so-called "communities" plan presented by commissioners Lamson and Smith. As proposed for Butte-Silver Bow, their plan is not about my community, but about dividing my community and mixing us in with areas with which we have little to nothing in common.

I prefer the subdivision plan, or the urban-rural plan, or even the deviation plan. Any of those plans better maintains the integrity of Butte-Silver Bow and keeps my community's legislative delegation together, which is very important to me.

Sincerely,

Mary J McLaughlin 580 Little Basin Creek Rd Butte, MT 59701

From: Sent: Terry Murphy [murphter5@yahoo.com] Monday, March 26, 2012 7:36 AM

To:

Redistricting

Cc: Subject: Scott Mendenhall; Sandy Carey Jefferson County & Redistricting

As redistricting the State for the next 10 years proceeds, I wish to point out the situation of my county of residence--Jefferson.

Jefferson County has 10% to 15% more people than the right number for ONE House District. Therefore, it is only right, proper, and fair that Jefferson County have ONE House of Representatives district completely within the boundary of Jefferson County. The remainder should then be attached to a district in a neighboring county with a similar economic and cultural makeup. This would honor the historic principle of maintaining county lines as much as possible, and areas of similar interest as much as possible.

Any plan that carves Jefferson County into multiple Legislative Districts leaving Jefferson County voters as the minority in all of them is completely unfair to our citizens. The people of Jefferson County deserve to have a Representative elected by them to speak for them in the Montana Legislature.

Senator Terry Murphy, District 39

# RECEIVED

TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSIAN 26 2017

P.O. BOX 201706 districting@mt.gov

HELENA, MT 59620-1706

FAX 406-444-3036

Montana Legislative Services Division

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your consideration.

As a resident of Jefferson County, I am totally opposed to having Jefferson County split up for the benefit of Butte/Silver Bow County. Each of the four plans submitted by the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission and the plan submitted by the Democrats on the Commission all put some portion of Jefferson County into Butte/Silver Bow County. This is simply unacceptable.

If you are going to consider the three discretionary criteria you set up at the beginning of this process, you will understand why none of these proposals make any sense.

- 1.) Following the lines of political units. Jefferson County is about 1,500 people over the ideal district size. Since our existing district is most of Jefferson County, we should start there and make every effort to keep Jefferson County as whole as possible, the remain population staying with its Community of Interest in Madison County.
- 2.) <u>Following geographic boundaries.</u> The Continental Divide separates Jefferson and Butte/Silver Bow Counties. That is a very distinct geographic boundary between our counties that should be respected.
- 3.) Keeping communities of interest intact. Many people live in Jefferson County because they don't want the impacts and influences of urban areas. Most of Jefferson County should be one district, with an area of the county South of Interstate 90 remaining as part of the district that represents Madison County. The Whitehall Elementary and Whitehall High School District both include portions of Madison County. The Jefferson Valley Rural Fire District also extends into Madison County. Kids from Jefferson County participate in 4-H and the Madison County Fair in Twin Bridges. Jefferson and Madison Counties share an MSU Extension Agent. In short, Southern Jefferson County and Northern Madison County are clearly a "Community of Interest", and should remain together.

Jefferson County is located between three large urban counties, Lewis and Clark, Butte/Silver Bow, and Gallatin. It is important that we keep our own district so that we can maintain our proud identity. Please keep Jefferson County as whole as possible and allow a portion of Southern Jefferson County to remain with their "Community of Interest" in Northern Madison County.

Name Robert & Wi	lbinsor -	Robert F Wilkinson	
Address ROBBY 59	407E FIRST ST	Whitehall MT 59759	

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TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMIS**MAN** 2 6 2012

P.O. BOX 201706 HELENA, MT 59620-1706 Montana Legislative FAX 406-444-3036 Services Division

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Thank you for your consideration.		
Name Steller Ed Peter	trson	
Address 70. BOY 438	-Boulder	m+.59633

TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

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districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

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Name Marline	Sevensa	
Address Po Rox	270 Roulder MT 59/232	

# I support the Communities Plan because it:

- Guarantees our constitutional right of one persi one vote.
- Respects existing communities across Montana, including small towns, rural communities, cities, and suburban areas,
- Keeps intact more small towns than any other proposed plan,
- Provides strong protection of minority voting rights, so American Indian citizens can fully participate in our political process, and

Creates a fair balance so that no one political party gains monopoly control of the Legislature.





Districting & Apportionment Commission Legislative Services Division PO Box 201706 Helena, MT 59620-1706

# I support the Communities Plan because it:

Name

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===20@170**&** 

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Charlen	e Kalle	stad	
Name 2663	Overlook	Blud	
Address	MT	59601	
City	State	Zip	

**Districting & Apportionment Commission** Legislative Services Division PO Box 201706 Helena, MT 59620-1706

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George P Physiensen

Name 2 Sand Piper Loop

Address Hr 59602

City State Zip

Districting & Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

59620\$1706

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Districting & Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

HELEN CHRISTENSEN

Name
182 SAND PIPER LOOP

Addross
HELENA MT 59602

5962051706

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Dear Commissioners,

Please support the Communities Plan for Missoula County. It keeps all small towns intact in the county and recognizes shared urban and suburban communities of interest in the area. The Communities Plan reflects the importance of heavily traveled transportation networks in the region. These transportation networks play an important role in commerce and trade. Like the current districts, the Communities Plan allows Missoula County legislators to listen to diverse interests from within the county, rather than forcing them to narrowly focus on residents from within city limits or solely concentrate on those outside city limits.

istricting & Apport

Districting & Apportionment Commission Legislative Services Division PO Box 201706 Helena, MT 59620-1706

NOOM WOLLEGERS

Mietrun MT 59851

Judith K MATSON

Gary Matson

From:

Sandy Carey [carey.sandy@gmail.com] Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:36 AM

Sent: To:

Redistricting

Subject:

Jefferson County redistricting draft plan

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission,

The plan which divides Jefferson County into 3 parts is horribly unfair to the people of this county. Our people would be the minority in 2 districts dominated by Butte voters, and 1 district dominated by Helena voters. Jefferson County would literally become a non-entity on the Legislative map.

I am NOT in favor of the draft plan, Jefferson County - Urban Rural Plan, with its proposed plan to redistrict Jefferson County. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely, Sandy Carey

From: Sent: Suzy Ross [suzyfoss@gmail.com] Monday, March 19, 2012 4:00 PM

To:

Redistricting

Subject:

Redistricting Mt

#### Commissioners

Please protect my right to be heard in future elections by NOT adopting any maps from any political party or organization! Montana must stand for open and honest elections and that starts with fair districts and no gerrymandering.

Sincerely, Suzy Foss Ravalli County Commissioner.

Sent from my iPad